

United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council expands sanctions regime against Haiti, effective 21 May, to bring about compliance by military authorities with Governors Island Agreement; States to deny entry to Haitian officers and their families; sanctions to remain in force until President Aristide returns.
- + Security Council, in resolution adopted last night, renews ONUMOZ mandate for final period until 15 November; expresses concern at delays in implementation of General Peace Agreement.
- + Secretary-General welcomes IEC declaration that recent South African elections were free and fair; leaves Geneva for South Africa to attend inauguration of new President.
- + Secretary-General meets with Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal to discuss question of East Timor
- + UNPROFOR to deploy 16 more military observers in Bosnian town of Brcko this weekend to defuse tension in area.
- + Secretary-General appeals for end to fighting in Yemen, citing threat to country's unity and democracy.

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The Security Council today imposed a comprehensive commercial embargo against Haiti, effective 21 May, aimed at bringing about compliance by the country's military authorities with the Governors Island Agreement. The Council also required all States to deny entry to officers of the Haitian military and police, as well as their families, and urged States to freeze the financial resources of those persons. It took that action, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, by unanimously adopting resolution 917 (1994).

The sanctions will remain in force until the Commander-in-Chief of the Haitian Armed Forces retires, the Chief of Police of Port-au-Prince and Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces resigns, and President Jean-Bertrand Aristide returns to Haiti. Other conditions include the creation of a proper

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environment for free and fair legislative elections and for the deployment of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH).

The Council called on States not to allow aircraft to take off from or land in their territory if bound for or coming from Haiti, apart from regular commercial passenger flights. It also called on States to prevent the import and export of Haitian commodities or products, and to prevent the sale or supply of goods to Haiti, with the exception of medical supplies, foodstuffs, essential humanitarian products, and petroleum products authorized by resolution 841 (1993). The Council called on States cooperating with the legitimate Haitian Government, acting nationally or via regional arrangements, to use necessary measures to ensure strict implementation of its decisions, in particular to inspect and verify the cargoes and destinations of shipping.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to report by 19 May on steps taken by the Haitian military to comply with the Governors Island Agreement, and to report by 30 June on the situation in Haiti, including preparations for legislative elections and the humanitarian situation.

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The Security Council has renewed the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) at a reduced strength for a final period until 15 November, subject to reviews by 5 July and 5 September. In unanimously adopting resolution 916 (1994), the Council reiterated the importance of the elections to be held in Mozambique on 27 and 28 October. It called on the country's Government and the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) to support the electoral process, including the work of the recently inaugurated National Elections Commission.

Expressing concern at continuing delays, the Council called on the parties to comply fully with the General Peace Agreement, particularly regarding the demobilization of troops and the formation of the new Mozambican Defence Force. It asked the Secretary-General to report regularly on implementation of the Agreement. The Council commended the agreement signed by the parties on 8 April, which expedited the Government's assembly of troops and accelerated RENAMO's demobilization, and urged the parties to meet the 1 June and 15 July deadlines.

The Council called on the Mozambican Government to provide logistical and technical support for the formation of the new Defence Force, including regular pay for troops. It also called for as many troops as possible to be trained before the October elections. The Council urged the parties to allow ONUMOZ, humanitarian agencies and all political forces unimpeded access in Mozambique, and to cooperate with police observers in particular. It also thanked several countries for offering to assist the new Defence Force and for helping with the important work of mine clearance.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the declaration by the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Judge Johann Kriegler, that the recent South African elections were substantially free and fair. He praised the IEC's dedication and courage, saying it had enabled all South Africans to express peacefully their hopes for equality and freedom. He also noted that the United Nations had spearheaded the international campaign against apartheid. The Secretary-General today left Geneva for South Africa to attend the inauguration of the country's new President on 10 May.

In a related development, the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) and other international observer missions said that despite some irregularities, the elections reflected the will of the South African people. In a joint statement, the missions said the great strength of the vote counting process had been its transparency. They urged the IEC to deal quickly with outstanding disputes and to pursue any criminal investigations.

The international missions said the dramatic drop in political violence and the commitment of political leaders to reconciliation augured well for the new South Africa. While the international community had supported the struggle for democracy, South Africans themselves had managed the entire transitional process.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today in Geneva with the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia and Portugal, Ali Alatas and Durao Barroso, as part of his ongoing effort to resolve the question of East Timor. He welcomed the restraint displayed by both sides at international fora, which had made it possible for the Commission on Human Rights to adopt by consensus a Chairman's statement on the situation in East Timor. He called on the two sides to build on that consensus by implementing the recommendations in the statement. It was noted that the Indonesian Government intended to continue its investigation into the violent incident in Dili in 1991.

The Secretary-General said he was encouraged by the increased access to East Timor for the United Nations, human rights organizations and journalists. He said he would seek to promote "an all-inclusive intra-Timorese dialogue," while the Foreign Ministers said they were ready to meet with leading East Timorese supporters and opponents of integration. The Ministers asked the Secretary-General to identify issues for consideration before their next meeting, which will take place in Geneva in January. Prior to that meeting, representatives of the two Governments will hold talks at United Nations Headquarters.

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The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) will deploy sixteen more military observers in the Bosnian town of Brcko beginning tomorrow. According to a United Nations spokesman, the additional observers are part of an effort to defuse tension in the area. The agreement to deploy the observers followed discussions in Pale between Special Representative Yasushi Akashi and Bosnian

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Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. There are already fourteen military observers in the vicinity of Brcko -- six in Croatian-controlled areas in Orasje and eight in Muslim-controlled Maoca.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appealed to the parties in Yemen to end the conflict there peacefully and in accordance with the United Nations Charter. In a statement issued yesterday, the Secretary-General urged Yemen's leaders to exercise maximum restraint lest intensification of the fighting threaten the country's unity and democracy.

The Secretary-General welcomed the mediation efforts of a number of Governments and organizations in the region and urged all concerned to deepen their resolve to end the conflict.

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